

COVID-19 Appendix K

DSPD Provider and Support Coordinator 2021 Guide

Appendix K applies to all Utah 1915(c) HCBS waivers during the Covid-19 public health emergency, including DSPD operated waivers:

- Acquired Brain Injury Waiver
- Community Supports Waiver
- Physical Disabilities Waiver
- Community Transitions Waiver

Approved amendments to DSPD practices:

Person Centered Planning and Assessments - Ends January 31, 2021

Allows an extension of person-centered support planning documentation, evaluations, and assessments up to twelve months past their original end date. [See Assessments and Person-Centered Support Plans on the DHS Provider COVID-19 FAQ](#). Plans cannot be extended a second year. If an in-person or virtual planning meeting cannot be held, meeting over the phone is another option. Please document all efforts made to assure that individuals are engaged and directing their meeting as much as possible, regardless of the method used.

Telehealth - Available the duration of the Appendix K

- Expanded options for virtual/remote evaluations, assessments, and person-centered service planning meetings, supported living, companion services, supported employment, personal assistance, and day programs. Telehealth is an alternative to in-person face-to-face meetings, when virtual/remote interaction can meet the needs of the person. [See Telehealth Guidance on the DHS Provider COVID-19 FAQ](#).
- An allowance for purchasing assistive technology and other small items to facilitate telehealth activities is available.

Caregiver Compensation - Ends March 31, 2021

Allows parents, spouses, and guardians to be reimbursed for providing support to the individual. [See Caregiver Compensation Guidance on the DSPD COVID-19 Information and](#)

[Resources webpage](#). Individuals using caregiver compensation may continue until March 31, 2021. Individuals who have not used caregiver compensation, but meet the criteria, may still apply for funding. Services are not eligible for reimbursement after March 31, 2021.

Equipment Purchases March 31, 2021

- Allows for purchase of PPE and supplies used to sanitize settings for the individual and staff.
- Allows for approval of assistive technology for telehealth without a prescription from a licensed physician in accordance with the Division's COVID-19 Purchase Guidance.

[See Purchase Guidance on the DSPD COVID-19 Information and Resources webpage](#).

Support Coordination

- Exception to conflict of interest requirements: under some circumstances, Support Coordinators may act as a person's direct care staff and receive reimbursement through a provider.
- The State will not require Notices of Agency Action to be sent when amending services in an individual's PCSP to accommodate changes as a direct result of COVID-19. Notices of Agency Action remain required in all other instances of services being suspended, terminated or denied.

Services

- Extends overnight respite beyond the 13 consecutive day maximum to 30 days per episode.
- Allows for grocery shopping and other errands to be completed by the staff, on behalf of the person, without the person being present. Eligible services include supported living, personal care, and personal attendant services.
- Temporarily expands settings where services can be provided.
 - When appropriate, day supports may be provided in the individual's home.
 - Alternative settings are allowed if the individual is displaced due to quarantine, hospitalization, or a provider is unavailable. The individual can be served in a hotel, shelter, church, alternative facility-based setting, or a direct care worker's

home. Eligible services include direct care services, respite, day supports, and supported employment.

- For individuals receiving residential, professional parent, host home, or supported living services, all alternative settings must be approved by the Office of Quality and Design. Also contact the Office of Licensing for approval, if the original site is licensed.
- Allows for social and emotional support through supported living, personal care, and personal attendant services.
- Habilitation, supported living and personal care/attendant care services may be provided in an acute setting or other short-term institutional setting, if the acute/institutional setting provider does not or cannot provide the service.
 - To use this service: document the tasks provided, and submit the waiver form completed by the institutional setting staff. The waiver form attests that specific tasks needed in the acute care hospital or short-term institutional stay cannot be done by the facility staff due to system capacity or other critical service interruption; and that the participant may have a trained attendant complete the specific tasks. The Department will ensure that no duplication of services occurs.

Contract and Licensing Requirements

Temporarily modifies provider qualifications and licensing requirements to:

- Allow in-person training to be completed online, by telephone, or other electronic means.
- Provide a 90-day window post-expiration for CPR, First Aid, and Crisis Management recertifications.
- Allow for provider enrollment or re-enrollment with modified employee risk screening elements such as onsite visits or fingerprint checks, or modification of training requirements.
- Suspend licensing and certification requirements, when approved by OL and OQD.
- Modify the maximum number of individuals allowed at certain sites to accommodate the use of quarantine sites (following CDC guidance), when approved by OL and OQD.

[See Licensing and Background Screening guidance in the DHS Provider COVID-19 FAQ.](#)

The Settings Rule

- May limit visitors in order to minimize the spread of infection.

Additional DHS Contract Flexibilities

Contact OQD to request an alteration to any contract requirement not related to the Medicaid Waiver. Requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.